

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

Claims 1-3 and 13-22 were previously pending and under consideration.

Claims 23-25 are added herein.

Therefore, claims 1-3 and 13-25 are now pending and under consideration.

Claims 1, 3, 13-15 and 21 are amended herein.

Group II is provisionally elected with traverse.

No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

TRAVERSE OF RESTRICTION

GROUPS I, II, IV, AND V (CLAIMS 1, 2, 13-15, and 18) ARE NOT DISTINCT SUBCOMBINATIONS

It is respectfully requested that Group I (claim 1) be included in provisionally elected group II because the only feature of claim 1 cited as rendering it distinct from claim 2 has been deleted. As stated in MPEP § 806.03:

Where the claims of an application define the same essential characteristics of a single disclosed embodiment of an invention, restriction therebetween should never be required. This is because the claims are but different definitions of the same disclosed subject matter, varying in breadth or scope of definition.

The feature cited as causing claim 1 to be distinct from claim 2 has been deleted, and the designating, acquiring/obtaining, and displaying of claims 1 and 2 define substantially the same essential characteristics.

It is respectfully requested that Group IV (claims 13-15) be included in provisionally elected group II because the only feature of Group IV cited as rendering it distinct from claim 2 has been deleted (display in time series basis).

Finally, it is respectfully submitted that Group V (claim 18) cannot have a utility separate from Groups I, II, and IV. Claim 18 recites connecting a client to two chat networks. Similarly, Groups I, II, and IV respectively recite: "the chat client transmitting and receiving the messages [i.e. connected] through at least two chat networks"; "terminals are configured for *connection* to a plurality of chat networks"; and "two chat networks to which the chat client is connected". Furthermore, claim 18 recites a displaying feature without substantial difference from the displaying recited in Groups I, II, and IV.] That is to say, each group displays chat messages from two networks in a discrete display area.

Furthermore, the restriction of Group V, at Item 3, fourth paragraph must be withdrawn because it is not complete. The restriction does not propose a separate utility for claim 18. Rather, the restriction merely recites claim 18 in its entirety and states that the features are not required for groups I-IV. A restriction based on "subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination" (page 2, line 7 of the Election/Restriction) must demonstrate two-way distinctness by showing that (A) the combination does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (B) the subcombination can be shown to have utility either by itself or in other and different relations. The restriction has provided no example on how claim 18 can be separately used. Merely quoting the verbatim language of a claim does not establish a separate utility nor does it demonstrate two-way distinctness from other claims or inventions.

Furthermore, the restriction attempts to show distinctness in only one direction. At page 2, last paragraph, the restriction compares Group V to groups I-IV. However, nowhere else does the restriction discuss group V and its distinctness in the direction from the other Groups, including provisionally elected Group II. "In order to establish that combination and subcombination inventions are distinct, two-way distinctness must be demonstrated." (MPEP § 806.05(c)). There is no discussion of how Group II can have a separate utility.

Furthermore, it is incorrect that the features of Claim 18 are not required by Group II. Claim 18 recites connecting the chat client to a first channel of a first chat network, and connecting to a second chat channel of a second chat network. Claim 2 recites connections but does not explicitly recite chat channels. However, it does recite connecting to plural chat networks, which requires connecting to a chat channel or an equivalent thereof. Claim 18 also

recites displaying the messages of the two chat channels of different chat networks in a discrete display area. However, claim 2 does require this feature because it recites displaying in a discrete display area messages to/from plural (connected) chat networks, which, given the nature of chat networks, is not ordinarily done without also having a chat channel for a chat network. For example, the AOL chat network is not used as a universal chat in which all users participate as one large client group, rather some unit of chat, for example a chat channel or chat group, is used to divide discussions into relevant or manageable groups. In other words, messages to/from chat networks as in claim 2 generally involves some chat network division such as a channel. Claim 18 does not recite features not required by claim 2 and is not distinct from claim 2.

Applicant respectfully requests Group V to be included in provisionally elected group II.

SEPARATE SEARCHES NOT NEEDED FOR GROUPS I, II, IV, AND V

GROUPS I AND II NOT IN DIFFERENT SUBCLASSES

Item 4 of the Election/Restriction proposes that Groups I and II would require separate searches of different classes/subclasses; 345/758 and 345/759, respectively. However, class/subclass 345/759 is a subclass of subclass 751, which relates to subject matter wherein "users at the multiple displays *join in completing a given task as a group*". In other words, subclass 759 relates to subclasses of groupware. Nothing in Group II (claim 2) indicates that it relates to completion of a task as a group. In contrast, claim 2 is clearly directed to chat technology. Although chat technology relates to the activity of a group of participants, the activity is simply open-ended, which is the opposite of the close-ended nature of completing a task in subclass 759. In sum, Group I (claim 1) belongs with Group II in subclass 758 and does not require a search of subclass 759.

Given the high degree of similarity between claims 1 and 2, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate what difference between these two claims leads to their different classification.

GROUP IV (CLAIMS 13-15) NOT IN CLASS/SUBCLASS 345/1.3

Subclass 1.3 is a subclass of subclass 1.1 and relates to "[s]ubject matter wherein the more than one visual display system includes plural displays adjacent to be viewed by the same user." Nowhere does claim 3 recite a feature similar to the subject matter of subclass 1.3. There is no language in claim 3 indicating *plural displays viewed by the same user*. Subclass 1.1 and its subclasses are for display systems with multiple displays, such as when one half of an image is displayed on one display of a display system and the other half is displayed on a second display of the display system (see Note (1) of subclass 1.1: "The use of adjacent Arts to display a large image is typical of this type of plural display system"). Subclass 1.1 and its subclass 1.3 are related to display technology, not chat technology.

GROUP V NOT IN CLASS/SUBCLASS

Group V (claim 18) has been placed in subclass 734. Subclass 734 is a subclass of subclass 733, which is a subclass of subclass 700. Subclass 700 covers graphical user interfaces. Subclass 733 further covers concurrent interfaces provided to multiple displays. And subclass 734 covers an "[I]nteractive network representation of devices (e.g., topology of workstations)". Therefore, subclass 734 covers concurrent graphical interfaces on multiple displays for the purpose of representing network devices (e.g. workstations or network nodes). In contrast, claim 18 recites a method performed by a single chat client. Applicant respectfully requests an explanation of what feature(s) of claim 18 require a search of subclass 734.

In sum, Groups I, II, IV, and V do not require separate searches. Each group is directed to chat technology under same class/subclass 345/758 and only one search is necessary. Therefore the restriction does not meet the requirement that "reasons for insisting on restriction" be provided (MPEP § 806.05(c)).

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

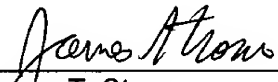
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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